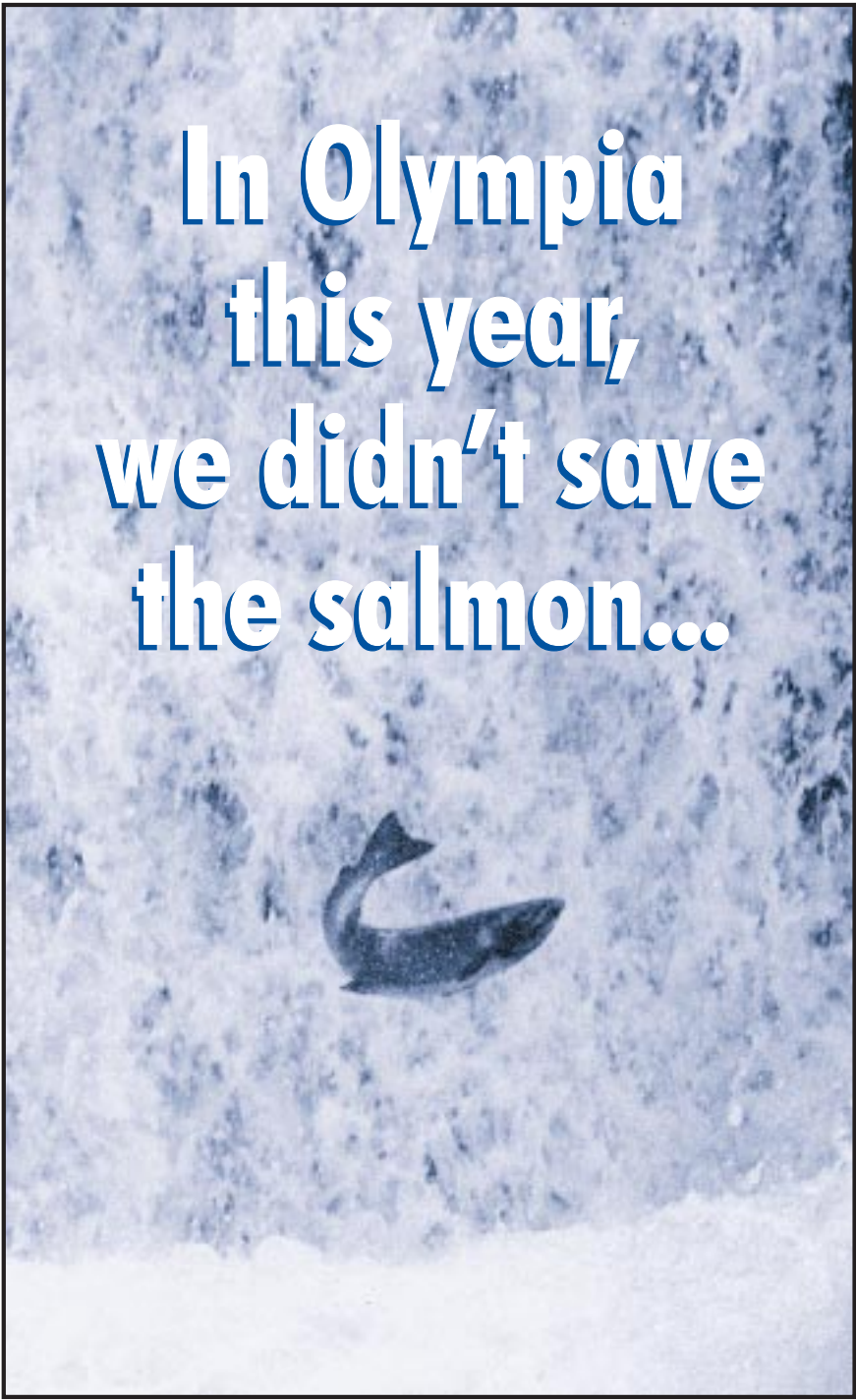


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**In Olympia  
this year,  
we didn't save  
the salmon...**



**But we started on the long journey!**



# 1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## Two Washingtons and Fish

State and local officials have about 18 months to show that Washington can make its own salmon recovery plans. If we don't succeed, the Endangered Species Act will control Washington's natural resources. Nearly everything we do with water and land use throughout the state is connected to salmon or salmon habitat. If we don't fix the problem now, the federal government will regulate where roads, homes and businesses can be built.



## What We Did

This year the Legislature passed a bill setting up the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office which will evaluate and prioritize salmon recovery plans and report on their effectiveness. We authorized a total of \$31 million for salmon habitat projects such as culvert removal, large woody debris removal and other in-stream improvements.

## Is It Enough?

What we did is a step in the right direction, but the reality is that restoring our salmon runs will require everyone's cooperation. To bring back wild salmon to their once abundant populations, we must all be a part of the solution. Business, environmental groups, tribes, schools, and government must work together to control the destiny of our own resources. The \$36 million investment we made, which includes \$5 million for watershed planning, is only a start.

## What Else Did The Legislature Do For Fish?

### ***Watershed planning***

We improved the way the state manages ground and surface water, which is critical to wild salmon restoration. We also added more local control in deciding how water is used or conserved in communities to meet the needs of healthy fish. In order to achieve this, we provided \$5 million in the supplemental budget.

### ***Saving the steelhead***

We created a pilot program for the recovery of steelhead runs in the lower Columbia River. The bill that created the program put into law efforts already started by the Governor's Salmon Team and creates a panel of local and state government officials responsible for the coordination and development of a steelhead recovery plan.

### ***Making sure the money is spent on fish***

We also required that regional fisheries-enhancement advisory boards examine their own practices and make recommendations on how to cut their overhead costs. This will allow us to make sure that the money we've targeted for fish restoration goes to fish restoration, not office operations.

### ***Dairy pollution***

Though the media made much of changing the word "manure" to the term "dairy nutrients," this bill does require dairy farmers to develop a management plan to keep manure out of rivers, lakes, and streams where it can kill fish. The new regulations were adopted to help fend off federal regulations, and inspections under the federal Clean Water Act.

## It's More Than Just Fish

Science shows that salmon need more, and much cleaner, water to survive and thrive. As we tried to save the salmon, special-interest legislation continued to chip away at environmental protections this year. Requests to restore funding to water pollution control programs and environmental and wildlife enforcement were ignored.

## What We Still Must Do

We must enforce the environmental laws we already have on the books. If we want a Washington where our wild salmon can thrive once again, we must provide clean water — and enough of it. We must protect our streams and habitats from deterioration. And we must all be a part of the solution!

## DUI Legislation – More To The Session Than Just Fish

While attempting to save one endangered species, we were trying to drive another – the drunk driver – to extinction.

Having been disabled by a drunk driver, I was determined to see DUI legislation passed. And, this year we did mount a truly bi-partisan effort to make our roads safer, passing 13 bills aimed at drunk drivers.

We managed to toughen drunken driving laws by closing loopholes that allowed habitual offenders back on the road, making sure that even first-time offenders get the message that we are serious.

### ***Specific ways we cracked down:***

- ✓ Lowered the legal blood-alcohol limit from .10 percent to .08 percent.
- ✓ Called for a seven-year license suspension for people with three or more DUI offenses on their record.
- ✓ Required ignition interlocks for offenders arrested with blood-alcohol levels of .15 or greater. An ignition interlock is a device that will prevent a car from starting if the driver's breath sample contains any alcohol.
- ✓ Limited deferred prosecution to once in a driver's lifetime, and strengthened the conditions of deferred prosecution.
- ✓ Required license suspension for first-time drunk drivers without going to court first.
- ✓ Allowed local governments to impound cars when the driver's license has been suspended or revoked, because of drunk driving or other violations.
- ✓ Required that courts verify the complete criminal history and driving record before disposing of a drunk driving case. The new law also increases sentences for vehicular homicide based on prior DUI convictions.



Governor Locke and Senator Fairley both made cracking down on drunk drivers a priority for the session.

## Keep In Touch

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